

openings having a shape selected from the group consisting of ellipses and trisoids, at least some of the ceramic filters units having a plurality of flow passageways defined by the more than two openings extending through the ceramic filter units;

(b) contacting an organic-based feed stream with the layer of ceramic filter units; and

(c) subdividing the organic-based feed stream into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream through the plurality of flow passageways defined by the plurality of openings prior to the organic-based feed stream contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor.

Please amend claim 48, as follows:

48. (Amended) The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including a step of utilizing ceramic filter units having a length of 0.5 inches to 3 inches.

Please cancel claims 49 and 50.

Please amend claims 51 and 52, as follows:

51. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including a step of utilizing ceramic filter units having at least one groove on a periphery surface of the ceramic filter units.

52. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including a step of utilizing ceramic filter units having a polygonal cross-sectional configuration having a plurality of sides, the configuration selected from the group consisting of triangles, quadrilaterals, squares, rectangles, pentagons, hexagons, heptagons, and octagons.

Please add claims 53 through 56:

53. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including a step of utilizing ceramic filter units having a diameter of 0.5 inches to 3 inches.

54. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including a step of utilizing ceramic filter units having a width of 0.5 inches to 3 inches.

55. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including a step of utilizing ceramic filter units having a major axes of 0.5 inches to 3 inches.